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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11482 290752Z

12
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

SAM-01 SAJ-01 AGR-20 SWF-02 DRC-01 /175 W
---------- 092722
R 290730Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11482

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, UR, IN
SUBJ: INDO-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 10031

1. MEETING OF INDO-SOVIET JOINT COMMISSION HAS SLIPPED AND MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFAIRS OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY AUGUST 28 THAT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN SECONDHALF OF SEPTEMBER, ALTHOUGH FIRM DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET. HE SAID REASON FOR SLIPPAGE IS TO BE FOUND ON BOTH SIDES, BUT THAT INDIANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED BY FAILURE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES IN TIMELY FASHION FOR MEETING.

2. AMONG OTHER POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOOD ASSISTANCE GAINS IN IMPORTANCE AS TIME PASSES, MONSOON CONTINUES BELOW AVERAGE, AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT EFFORTS FALL FAR SHORT OF QUANTITIES NEEDED TO SUPPLY PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. WE ARE NOW SATISFIED THAT INDIANS HAVE PUT A REQUEST FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIETS WHO MUST NOW BE FACING THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO COME THROUGH WITH A SECOND ANNUAL FOODGRAIN LOAN. WE ALSO THINK THE SOVIETS
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 11482 290752Z

PROBABLY BELIEVE THAT FAILURE ON THEIR PART TO PROVIDE FOOD

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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AID WILL HURT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA. BUT IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN WHICH WAY THEY ARE GOING TO GO.

3. WITH THE SUBJECT OF FOOD AID TO INDIA TAKING ON INCREASING IMPORTANCE, WE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ANY INFORMATION OR COMMENT ON LIKELIHOOD OF SOVIETS' MAKING FOOD AVAILABLE TO INDIA.
MOYNIHAN

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